

To Contact Us on an Incident

An Incident Command Post will be established and regular briefings will be scheduled to facilitate open communication and positive rapport with local landowners, emergency responders and agencies. Based upon incident location, a designated phone number may be set up and published. If you need to reach us prior to this you can contact one of the team members listed below.

Incident Commander, Dave Hamilton
406-431-1948
dahamilton@mt.gov

Deputy Incident Commander, Don Pyrah
406-380-0064
dpyrah@mt.gov

Information Officer, Crystal Beckman
406-370-8755
clbeckman@mt.gov

Plans Chief, Will Bernard
919-619-1408
will@redlodgefire.com

Previous Team Assignments

Wall Fire; 1,457 acres; SW of Ashland; 2016
North Tullock Fire; 2,720 acres; Hardin; 2016
Rattlesnake Fire; 582 acres; Helena; 2016
Mount Pleasant Fire; 11,300 acres, W Virginia;
2016

Holter Complex; 750 acres; Wolf Creek; 2015

Eustis Fire; 9,000 acres; Toston; 2015

Bales Fire; 6,000 acres; Ashland; 2015

Pine Crest Fire; 3,000 acres; Columbus; 2015

Log Gulch Fire; 215 acres; Holter Lake; Wolf
Creek; 2014

Bascom Road Fire; 1,294 acres; Rosebud County;
2012

Managed an initial attack severity staging area;
Miles City; 2012

Dugan Fire; 10,675 acres; Carter County; 2012

Musselshell county flooding; Roundup; 2011

Stump Gulch Fire; 9,870 acres; Columbus; 2010

Eagle Mount Subdivision Fire; 1,222 acres;
Columbus; 2009

Dunn Mountain; 102,000 acres; 2008

Knowlton Complex; 6,970 acres; 2008

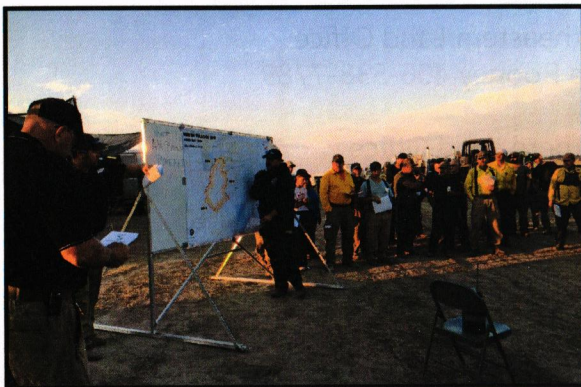
County Assist Team "CAT" Incident Management Team

Safety is our #1 Priority



Our mission is to provide a cost-effective, readily available incident management resource for local jurisdictions and to support and assist in bringing order out of the chaos resulting from an emergency or disaster.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
COUNCIL 2017-18



What is the "CAT" Team?

The CAT Team is an All Hazard Incident Management Team that was originally formed in 1990 to help rural and volunteer fire departments with wildfires when the local initial forces became stretched beyond their resource level. The first team dispatch was in 1992 to a 7,000 acre fire near Medicine Rocks.

The team is sponsored by Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).



CAT Team Members

This team is unique in that the core team consists of Eastern and Central Montana people who represent a wide variety of professions including: volunteer firefighters; farmers; ranchers; business owners; electricians; appraisers; and employees from local government; Montana State University, DNRC, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The team forms a complimentary mix of local and interagency personnel with combined strength due to their diverse expertise.

Local government, fire departments and landowners are comfortable working with this management team due to the fact that they know many of them as neighbors, friends or even family.

Team Goals

Adhere to local jurisdictional policy, by interfacing and maintaining effective lines of communication with responsible agencies, local leaders and the public.

Promote mutual respect and rapport between local emergency responders and team members.

Provide support, relief and assistance to local emergency responders when an incident becomes too large or complex to manage on their own.

Increase the response capacity of the local jurisdiction by providing incident management capabilities and access to additional resources.

Provide a quick response to rural areas that have limited resources.

Follow recognized standard protocols & NIMS/ICS to keep the safety of the public and the emergency responders as the priority.

Manage the incident within reasonable financial constraints by utilizing efficient and cost effective techniques.

Ensure incident documentation with written Incident Action Plans, media and

public fact sheets, financial records and resource orders.

When not involved with an incident, provide training opportunities for local fire and emergency responders.

Training

All team members maintain National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) certification qualification and standards according to the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification Guide. In 2015, the core CAT Team members completed a nationally recognized Complex Incident Management Course in Bend, OR. That course emphasized management principles for all-hazard type incidents. Each year, the team provides training for volunteer fire departments during a weekend session with live burn practice and stations on engine and pumper operations, building fire line, and mop-up.

To Deploy the CAT Team Contact DNRC Area Managers

Eastern Land Office
Chris Pileski 406-232-2034

Northeastern Land Office
Clive Rooney 406-538-7789

Southern Land Office
Matt Wolcott 406-247-4400

Central Land Office
Hoyt Richards 406-458-3501